

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 4-17 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 of the present invention has been amended to recite that the monitoring agent is a “human being monitoring agent.” As noted by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action mailed July 7, 2005, this limitation was not previously explicitly stated in the claims, although it was relied upon in arguments set forth in the previous response. Thus, the monitoring agent in the present invention is a *physical person*, and not a machine or any other device that is capable of performing the functions of a monitoring agent.

Support for the aforementioned amendment to claim 1 may be found, for example, on page 1, line 31 – page 2, line 4 of the Specification. Specifically, the language in the cited portion of the specification recites “monitoring is carried out by a monitoring agent equipped with portable devices enabling *them* to consult the parking server via telephone link.” In addition, page 5, line 30 – page 6, lines 1 recites, “The ticket 11 indicating the period and start time of parking is placed visible inside the vehicle so as to enable it to be *visually monitored by the monitoring agents*.” Furthermore, page 7 recites “when the monitoring agent *asks* the ticket machine to provide *him* with a list.”

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, and 4-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO97/37328 (“Ouimet”) in view of WO98/04080 (“Zeitman”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Turning to the rejection, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness “...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.” (*See* MPEP §2143.03). Further, “all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” (*See* MPEP §2143.03). The Applicant respectfully asserts that the references, when combined, fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of amended independent claim 1.

Specifically, the Examiner admits that Ouimet fails to disclose or suggest that the user can send parking information to the server by mobile telephone and that the server would then send the parking information to the ticket machine. In addition, Ouimet fails to disclose or suggest that the parking server transmits the parking information to the ticket machine and *upon request of a human being monitoring agent*, the ticket machine subsequently supplies parking authorization control elements with the parking information. The Examiner asserts that a monitoring agent as recited in the claimed invention is equivalent to a system/software of Ouimet (*See* Office Action mailed July 7, 2005, page 2). As described above, the monitoring agent of the claimed invention cannot possibly be interpreted to be software/hardware responsible for detecting a new purchase for parking, because the amended claims clearly recite that the monitoring agent is a human being. This amendment is clearly supported by the Specification where the monitoring agent is clearly referred to as a “him” and “them” (*see* Specification, pages 6-7), and not an “it.” Further, the monitoring agent performs such human

actions as visually monitoring and asking for a list from the ticket machine (*see* Specification, pages 6-7).

Further, Zeitman fails to disclose that which Ouimet lacks. Specifically, Zeitman discloses that pertinent information is sent from a central interface unit to law enforcement interface unit (see, *e.g.*, Figure 1 and page 6, lines 23-25 of Zeitman), but Zeitman is completely silent regarding information sent upon request of a human being monitoring agent.

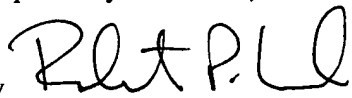
In view of the above, it is clear that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Ouimet and Zeitman, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claims 2 and 4-17, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09667.002001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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